

What Lies Beneath

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I thought of this story as I relaxed on the beach during a recent family getaway. It is a story that I remember hearing almost each year of my childhood as my family made its annual trek to the Grand Strand. Though the exact location now escapes me, I do vividly remember seeing the carcass of that ship somewhere along the northern edge of the beach many years ago. I am sure that the beach restoration project some years ago has now forever sealed the remains of the ship from human view, yet I know somewhere it still lies somewhere, just beneath the surface.

The recollection of this tale served as a catalyst for me to ponder what else lies just beneath our scope of perception. What are the stories behind many of the magnificent relics we sometimes admire but most often fail to notice? The old, dilapidated houses which were once the proud homes of countless families, what stories do they possess yet refuse to disclose? The wagon trails that once crisscrossed our state as the bustling superhighways of their time, but now overgrown or erased forever by the specter of progression, what stories could they tell of their early travelers? The trenches carved into the earth at the former Camp Greene, just west of center Charlotte – whatever became of the dough-boys who trained in them for trench warfare during the First World War? I wonder.

While wrapped up in the ever-enfolding arms of nostalgia, I am reminded of the brevity of life and the importance of living it well. Soon enough, even the memory of our existence will delicately fade away. I believe that the inscription on the breastplate of King George V sums up the value of a worthy life as it testifies:

*I shall pass through this world but once,
Any good, therefore, that I can do,
Or any kindness I can show to any human being,
Let me do it now.
Let me not defer or neglect it,
For I shall not pass this way again.*

Godspeed, 

Ways We Serve

Greeters

- 5 Carl Henline & Rosalind Welder
- 12 Keith & Kathy Dedmond
- 19 Mac & Jewel Brawley
- 26 Bill & Karen Leonhardt

Time (mostly)

For Children

- 5 Kathy Douglas
 - 12 Mary Cagle
 - 19 Page Abernethy
 - 26 Suzanne Peeler
- (If you feel called to offer one of our weekly children's messages, please contact the church office.)

Pew Keepers

- 5 Betty Ann Oppelt
- 12 Sherry Reinhardt
- 19 Joe & Susan Wigley
- 26 OPEN

Parking Valets

- 5 Steve Cain
- 12 Charlie King
- 19 Mike Owen
- 26 Paul Douglas

Altar Guild

Kay Lowe



Celebrate September!

Birthdays

- 2 Owen Krech & Molly Tweed
- 3 Katherine Kinard & Jeff Noles
- 6 David Lowe
- 7 Jason Ellis
- 8 Morgan Ellis & Jeremy Krech
- 9 Joey Demofonte, Pat Lawing, Judy Lowe,
& Kaitlyn Wilt
- 10 Sheila Bailey
- 13 Charles Lutz
- 15 Susannah Kinard & Kay Lowe
- 16 Mason Cagle, Jessica Sibert, & Anna Wiseman
- 17 Mac Brawley
- 18 Kelly Kinard & Carolyn Heafner Williams
- 19 Patty Ferris & Carol King
- 20 Robert Fox
- 22 JoAnn McCullough
- 23 Kenny Finger
- 24 Andy Underwood
- 25 Margaret Schrum
- 26 Suzette Holbrooks & Caroline Powell
- 28 Susan Horvat & Julia Moore

Anniversaries

- 1 Bill and Karen Leonhardt
- 3 Curt and Jula Moore
- 13 Matthew and Lauren Eagle
- 14 Mac and Jewel Brawley
- 15 Brian and Kris Dedmond
- 16 Michael and Bridget Dedmond
- 21 Butch and Mollie Helms
- 27 Mitch and Page Abernethy
- 29 Charlie and Whitney King
- 30 Klay and Katie Shrum



FUMC Friends,

I just wanted to take a minute to say a heartfelt "THANK YOU" for providing the meal after Kelly's funeral service. Everything was delicious! Thanks again, and God Bless!

-Matt Edwards, Ellery & Mallie-Kate

Therefore I tell you, whatever you ask for in prayer, believe that you have received it, and it will be yours. - Mark 11:24

In Your Daily Prayers, Please Pray for:

Sharon & Jim Barkley (relatives of Jodi Cronland), Elliot Beal, Benjamin Brown (Page Abernethy's brother), Lou Ann Cain, Keveryl and Daphca Dyson, Ed Hatley, Lee & Lois May Hoehne (parents of Kathy Douglas), Steve Kirksey, David Lowe, Renia Rhodes (sister-in-law of Jodi Cronland), Claudia Rose (mother of Susan Taylor), Unspoken Requests

NURSING FACILITIES: Nancy Boulware (Abernethy Laurels), Carolyn Dellinger (Brian Center), Mary Heavner (Abernethy Laurels), Judy Komas (The Addison), Ken Marks (TerraBella Lake Norman), Mary Jean Rollins (Summit Place - Mooresville)

HOMEBOUND: Ron and Brenda Ballard, Winnon Cashion, Phyllis Hoffman, Jo Huss, Donna Connor Morris, Marie Nichols, Queeta Ramseur, Mary Robinson, Verna Rufini, Shirley Smith



Girl Scouts® Troop 20740 in Action!



On August 7th, Girl Scout Troop 20740 helped with the clean up of Betty Ross Park as a part of Lincoln County Beautiful's 2nd Annual South Fork River Clean-up. About 17 girls and their leaders took part, as well as others who paddled their canoes and kayaks on the river to help with the clean-up.

1st row: Jayda & Kayden Johnson, Makayla Ford, Dakota Rutnik, Kinsley Helms, Emma Sloan.

2nd row: Khloe Taylor, Addi Ellis, Joyce Ledford (leader) Jenna Harmon, Kennedy Armstrong, Maddie Sloan.

Back row: Teresa & Madelyn Helms, Agnes Rutnik, Vicky Chrisco, Jocelyn Sloan & Christy Armstrong (not pictured).



CLOSE TO HOME

BY JOHN McPHERSON





201 East Main Street
Lincolnton, NC 28092

Sunday School at 10 am

Service at 11 a.m. each Sunday.

Office Hours: 9 a.m. until 1 p.m.: Mon.-Thur.

Office: 704.735.7489

Email: fumc_office@bellsouth.net

Website: fumclincolnton.com



Follow us on Facebook and YouTube



Events this coming month

Sept 7 – FIRST UMC Preschool Begins 2021-22 school year

Sept 7 – Gratefully Helen Combs Circle – 2 pm in the fellowship hall

Sept 12 – Blood Pressure screenings following Morning Worship

Sept 12 – Church Council Meeting – 6:30 pm in the Fellowship Hall

Sept 26th – United Methodist Men's Breakfast – 8 am in the fellowship hall

Sept 29th – UMW Reading Group – Noon in the Library

Wednesdays at 10 am – The Wednesday Morning Prayer and Study group meets in the Annex for prayer and study. Everyone welcome.

First United Methodist Church *Messenger*

September 2021

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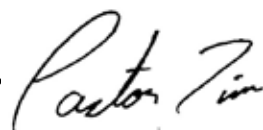
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Sunday School Rovers

- 5 Kathy Dedmond
- 12 Cheryl Cole
- 19 Letha Owen
- 26 Bo King

Altar Guild

Kay Lowe



Dear FUMC,

I would like to take a moment to thank your congregation for the love, support, and dedication to our GE MASSEY students this year.

As you know, this year has been a year like no other. We have problem-solved as a community, been innovative in our thinking, and defeated challenges that stood in our path. Your church was an active participant in providing book bags, school supplies, gift cards, Easter baskets, and food donations, and we are extremely appreciative of your support.

Our students come from varying and diverse back-

grounds...some currently living in foster homes, with grandparents, Hessed House, and local hotel rooms. Your love for our children not only helps them within the walls of the school, but also at home where their living arrangements are far from perfect.

Just a quick glimpse into their lives....A little boy mentioned to me going out the door one Friday afternoon, "Mrs. Withrow, this bag of food is the best thing about the weekends." As the words came from his mouth, he had the biggest smile on his face. "WOW," I thought to myself as I fought back the tears that quickly filled my eyes. How quickly we lose sight of what is important, essential, and of value in our lives. This little boy wasn't excited about sleeping in, watching TV, playing a video game...but simply having food to eat for the weekend.

Again....God bless you all in your giving to our students. We are blessed beyond measure to have the FUMC playing such an active role in the lives of our students at GE MASSEY Elementary.

5th Sunday UMW Reading Group

Before We Were Yours by Lisa Wingate

Memphis, 1939. Twelve year old Rill Foss and her four younger siblings live a magical life aboard their family's Mississippi River shantyboat.

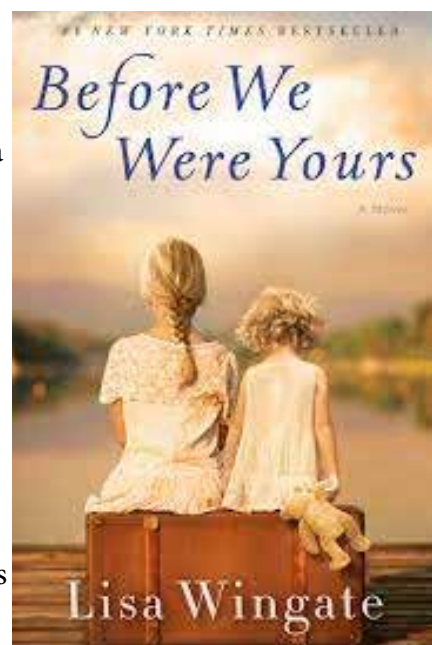
But when their father must rush their mother to the hospital one stormy night, Rill is left in charge – until strangers arrive in force. Wrenched from all that is familiar and thrown into a Tennessee Children's Home Society orphanage, the Foss children are assured that they will soon be returned to their parents– but they quickly realize the dark truth. At the mercy of the facility's cruel director, Rill fights to keep her sisters and brother together in a world of danger and uncertainty.

Aiken, South Carolina, present day. Born into wealth and privilege, Avery Stafford seems to have it all: a successful career as a federal prosecutor, a handsome fiancé and a lavish wedding on the horizon. But when Avery returns home to help her father weather a health crisis, a chance encounter leaves her with uncomfortable questions and compels her to take a journey through her family's long-hidden history, on a path that will ultimately lead either to devastation or to redemption.

Based on one of America's most notorious real-life scandals in which Georgia Tann, director of a Memphis-based adoption organization, kidnapped and sold poor children to wealthy families all over the country – Lisa Wingate's riveting, wrenching and ultimately uplifting tale reminds us how, even though the paths we take can lead to many places, the heart never forgets where we belong.

Review found on Amazon. *Before We Were Yours* is in the Nurturing for Community category and is available from Jonas Library.

Several new books have been added to the UMW 2021-2022 reading list. The list is in the binder on the UMW bookshelf. The next meeting of the UMW 5th Wednesday Readers will be Wednesday, September 29, in the church library at noon.



Flowers for Fall and Winter

If you would like to place flowers in the sanctuary in the coming months, you can sign up for particular dates on the Flower Calendar outside the church office, or you can contact the church office directly to request a date. Special Sundays for the fall and winter where flowers or special arrangements are currently planned are November 21st for Thanksgiving, and December 12th, 19th and 24th for the 3rd and 4th Sunday of Advent and Christmas Eve. A Flower Calendar for 2022 will be placed outside the church office in January.



United Methodist Men

United Methodist Men will have their monthly breakfast on September 26th at 8 am in the Fellowship Hall. All men of the church are invited to attend.

Special Offering from August 22

Thank you for your generosity with the special offerings we received on August 22nd for UMCOR Relief and for our Backpack Ministry. We received \$359 for the Backpack Fund, and received \$700 that will be sent directly to UMCOR to aid in disaster relief efforts.

Backpack Ministry

The Backpack Ministry will be kicking back up soon! Please remember our G. E. Massey kiddos when you are making your monthly donations. It costs around \$1,000 a month to feed about 25 kids each weekend. Thank you so much for your support!

Music Notes

The Handbell Choir will resume their weekly rehearsals beginning on Sept. 1 at 6 pm in the Sanctuary.

The Chancel Choir will resume their practices on Wednesday evening, Sept. 1 at 7 pm, and will meet every other week for the foreseeable future. Join us as we begin preparing for the fall and upcoming holiday season.

Circle Notes

- **The Gratefully Helen Combs Circle** will meet on Tuesday, Sept. 7th at 2 pm in the fellowship hall. We will wear face coverings and practice social distancing. Food and drink precautions will also be observed. Contact Circle Chair, Betty Parker, if you have infection control concerns.

- An early reminder that the **Jill Owen Circle** will meet on October 5th at 1 pm (COVID permitting). The location of this meeting will be announced at a later date.

New Study for the Crave Class

Beginning on August 29th, the Crave Class will begin a new study series using the book *The Walk*, by Adam Hamilton. Jennifer Carroll will be leading this series, which will explore the five essential spiritual practices that are rooted in Jesus' own walk with God and taught throughout the New Testament. We hope you will join us for this exciting and thought-provoking study. The Crave Class meets in the Annex on Sunday mornings at 10 am.

Nursery Attendant Needed

We are in need of an additional person to serve in our nursery each Sunday morning during Sunday school and worship. If you feel called to serve in this capacity, please contact the church office for more information.

Labor Day Closing

The Church Office will be closed on Monday, September 6th in observance of Labor Day. We will reopen for regular hours on Tuesday, Sept. 7th at 9 am.

Boy Scout and Cub Scout Update

The Cub Scout Pack 75 has resumed their weekly meetings after taking the summer off. They meet from 7 - 8 pm on Monday evenings. Boy Scout Troop 75 has remained active during the summer months, and they meet on Monday evenings at 6:30. Unless away for a special activity, both groups meet on the lower level of the Education Building.

This summer, four troop members were installed in the Order of the Arrow.

Stewardship Message

Ever notice that there aren't a lot of messages about stewardship? Good reason for that. Too many messages and it might appear that we're all about money. We're not. We're about God and high purpose. Some parts of doing that take a little money – thus, the occasional message.

Here's a short reminder that what we give to the church is totally between us and God but it isn't a trade-off. God may place a higher value on us than we do on Him. Food for thought. Whatever we give is never wasted and ultimately appreciated by lots and lots of people who benefit from it. Nice how it works that way, isn't it?

Gordon Hubbell

Stewardship Chair/Treasurer

July 2021 YTD revenue	\$ 202,423
July 2021 YTD expense	\$ 203,549
July 2021 YTD deficit	\$ (1,126)

Parish Nursing Notes

Tick bites peak in the summer, but these insects are still active in the fall. People ages 65 and older have the highest rate of Lyme Disease in the U.S., according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

You will be told to wear long sleeved shirts and long pants, but ticks often stick to your clothing and enter your home when you go inside.

Insect repellent on exposed skin is more effective about keeping ticks off. Insect repellents with Deet concentrations of 15-30% have been most effective in repelling biting bugs.

The safest practice is to take outside clothing off in your laundry area and take a bath (including shampooing your hair) as soon as you come inside. Either wash your clothing or put them in a hot clothes dryer for 10 minutes to be sure that all ticks are destroyed.

Ticks have to bite you to cause any infection, so do not worry if you find a tick "walking" on you. If you do find a tick "attached" to your skin, remove it carefully and watch for any sign of illness for at least two weeks.

Blood Pressure Screenings

Due to COVID-19 limitations, there have been no blood pressure checks at the church since March of 2020. We will resume blood pressure screenings on Sept. 12th. The table will be set up in the breezeway between Education and Middle Buildings starting at 10:30 am and again after the 11 am service. Betty Parker and Cheryl Cole will take blood pressures, with Kay Hermann recording information. All three of us will be wearing face coverings and everyone MUST wear a mask while having their blood pressure taken. There are no COVID-19 transmission concerns so long as everyone wears a mask and the nurses sanitize their hands between people. If you have any safety concerns about this process, please contact your Parish Nurse. Blood pressure checks will continue on the first Sunday of each month, but in an effort to avoid Labor Day, we opted to the second Sunday of September.

Betty Parker – 704-435-9042



Lincolnton Rotary Club

We are excited to welcome the Lincolnton Rotary Club, which will be holding weekly meetings in our Fellowship Hall each Monday, beginning August 30th, from 11:30 am until 2 pm. We look forward to a long relationship with these leaders in our community.

The Mission of First United Methodist Church of Lincolnton is to be "First" in love to all people; welcoming and accepting all. Through worship, prayer and fellowship and service, we invite you into a relationship with Jesus Christ, celebrating our differing gifts so as to strive for unity as one body in Christ.

Sunday School Adventures!

Starting on September 12th, at 10 am, we will begin an exciting new adventure in learning for children Grades Kindergarten through 5th grade. In Workshop Rotation Sunday School, we will teach the same Bible story for four weeks in a row to all elementary students. Each week, the children will engage in a new and unique workshop (story, game, science experiments, drama, cooking, etc.) For September, we will start with the story of Noah and the Ark and will look at the story in new and fun ways:

Sept 12th – We will start with a Kid’s Breakfast at 9:45 am, then continue with the story of Noah’s Ark and finish with a fun game!

Sept 19th – We will continue the story of Noah with a music time, and then some fun science experiments!

Sept 26th – We will conclude our time with Noah with some awesome art projects!

Why Rotate?

By slowing down the rate of story change, the Workshop Rotation Model deepens the student’s experience and memory, while allowing the leaders to get creative and not have to prepare entirely new lessons each week.

Bible literacy improves when the same story is taught through different workshops over four weeks.

Each workshop focuses on a different creative learning style, which broadens memory and comprehension.

The commitment for workshop leaders is once a month!

Leader prep time is reduced from every week to every 4 weeks. This also allows the leader to utilize more creative approaches with the lesson content because they aren’t having to create something new each week.

Leaders are recruited for the workshop which best works with their strengths and interests in four-week commitments.

Traditional boring classrooms become transformed into fun, inventive workshops. Students anticipate something new each week.



We look forward to seeing you on September 12!

Do you have a passion for art?

Do you love to tell stories in new and exciting ways?

Does sharing a gift of music thrill your soul?

If you answered yes to any of these questions and are looking for ways to serve, we invite you to share your gifts with the children of our church and help with our new Rotation Model Sunday school, beginning on September 12th. This is a wonderful way to give of yourself, and to give glory to God for all we have been given.

Contact the church office for more information!